

Freight Advisory Council
March 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM
Brownells Inc.
3006 Brownells Parkway, Grinnell

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

	Terry Bailey	X	Ron Lang
X	Reilly Vaughan for Joel Brinkmeyer		Don McDowell
X	Kevin Burke	X	Delia Moon-Meier
	Col. Craig Baumgartner	X	Dan Sabin
X	Tom Determann	X	Scott Stabbe
	Kathy Evert		Mike Steenhoek
	Murry Fitzer	X	Brent Vanderleest
X	Natalie Hammer	X	Ron White
X	Bill Horan		Tim Woods
	Greg Jenkins	X	Kevin Ekstrand

Ex-Officio:

	Todd Ashby		Robert Palmer
X	Mike Hadley	X	Joseph Rude
X	Tracy Troutner for Mark Johnson		Brett Tjepkes
	Harold Hommes	X	Jennifer Wright
	Shirley McGuire		Cecil Wright
X	Mike Norris		

Iowa DOT:

X	Paul Trombino III	X	Ned Lewis for David Lorenzen
X	Stu Anderson		Mark Lowe
	John Adam	X	Craig Markley
	Mike Clayton	X	Amanda Martin
	Mikel Derby	X	Phil Meraz
	Lance Evans		Tammy Nicholson
X	Dan Franklin	X	Garrett Pedersen
X	Phou Baccam for Tina Hargis		Denise Said
X	Sam Hiscocks		John Selmer
	Laura Hutzell		Kim Snook
	Sandra Larson	X	Lee Wilkinson
	Phil Mescher		Diane McCauley
X	Kyle Barichello		

Guests:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions (10:00 am):** Amanda Martin provided an opening safety briefing. Ron Lang, Chair, welcomed the members of the Freight Advisory Council. The Council members introduced themselves and were asked the question, “Besides the bottom line, what metric provides you with the best measure of the effectiveness of your operation?” Responses included employee attitudes, employee growth, number of contracts, sales/profit, turnover rate, customer satisfaction, safety, CSA score, representing members appropriately, building relationships, serving customers, on-time delivery, and executed programs.
- 2) Discuss updated role of the FAC (10:30 am):** Craig Markley gave an overview of the revised version of the role of the Freight Advisory Council. This included an updated mission and goal for the FAC, as well as a list of values and responsibilities. Lastly, some changes were made to the actual organization of the FAC including terms for the chair and vice chair and agenda development.
- 3) Federal Legislative update and State Legislative update (10:40 am):** Dan Franklin provided an update on Legislative activity at the federal level. This update included budget and appropriations statuses. In addition, the second extension of MAP-21 expiring on July 31st. Mr. Franklin also gave an overview of a new transportation bill introduced by the Senate – DRIVE Act. This is a six-year, \$278 billion highway bill that would include a dedicated freight program with formula-based funding allocations.
- 4) Iowa DOT modal funding structure presentation (10:50 am):** Stu Anderson provided an overview of Iowa DOT’s funding structure including the origin and allocation of federal and state dollars, as well as the guidelines associated with each funding source. The Iowa DOT “Funding Pipe Chart” was used throughout the presentation to show the relationships between funding sources and how they are each used for different purposes. A discussion followed related to the additional funds available due to the raise in state fuel tax. FAC members had questions on changes such as the variable diesel fuel tax, variable for ethanol blending fuel markets, and aviation fuel. Future project programming approaches were also

discussed including investment in the interstate system and improvements to bridges and interchanges.

5) State Freight Plan and Rail System Plan (12:30 pm): Sam Hiscocks and Amanda Martin provided a status report of two plans the Department is currently working on: State Freight Plan and State Rail Plan. This included a general overview of material and an input exercise. Mr. Hiscocks gave an update on the input process and introduced the performance measure development process including USDOT guidance and example measures. Following this overview, an exercise was introduced in which FAC members were asked to review performance measure examples by mode (Air, Highway, Pipeline, Rail, Water) and make any additions based on the metrics that are important to their operation. Mrs. Martin gave an update on the State Rail Plan, including an introduction of the chosen consultant, plan development timeline, major tasks involved with the plan, and a tentative schedule for completion of tasks. Following these updates, Mrs. Martin introduced an input exercise asking FAC members for recommendations on which groups to target for input during plan development. Members made additions as part of both exercises before and during lunch.

6) Tour of Brownells (12:30 pm): Following lunch, a tour was given of the Brownells distribution facility by their President and Vice President of Operations. The FAC toured the office portion of the facility where orders and customer service took place, the operations portion where products were received and shipped, and the future display room. Highlights of the tour included a sophisticated automation system for filling orders and utilization of express carriers (including air cargo shipments) to send products to customers.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.